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Message Text

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USEEC

FOL PRAGUE 0799 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA ATHENS
BELGRADE BONN BRUSSELS HELSINKI LISBON LONDON MADRID OSLO
OTTAWA PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM THE HAGUE COPENHAGEN USBERLIN
VIENNA MAR 30, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, CZ
SUBJECT: APPROACHING WFTU CONGRESS IN PRAGUE

REFS A. PRAGUE 0782 B. BRUSSELS 06067(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS SECRETARY
AND VICE PRESIDENT BORIS AVERYANOV UNEXPECTEDLY INVITED
EMBOFF TO CALL ON HIM AT WFTU HEADQUARTERS MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS
QUESTION
OF ATTENDANCE AT UPCOMING CONGRESS. AVERYANOV WAS IN GENIAL
MOOD AFTER A LARGE LUNCH AND SAID SEVERAL THINGS OF POSSIBLE
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INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE: AVERYANOV SAID UPWARDS
OF 900 PERSONS WILL BE ATTENDING APRIL 16-23 WFTU CONGRESS.
NEARLY ALL OF LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, AND ASIA WILL BE
REPRESENTED, INCLUDING A LARGE FILIPINO DELEGATION. THE CGT
WILL BE COMING--THOUGH HE DID NOT SAY AT WHAT LEVEL THE

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DELEGATION WILL BE LED. THE CGIL HAS NOT
YET REPLIED TO THEIR INVITATION,
BUT AVERYANOV SAYS HE IS HOPING FOR SOMEONE. ALL IN ALL,
HE SAID, ABOUT NINETY ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU
WILL BE ATTENDING DESPITE THE ICFTU PROHIBITON ON
OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH WFTU. PARTICULARLY WORRISOME TO CONGRESS
PLANNERS IS THE FACT THAT SOMALIA'S TUC, AN AFFILIATE, IS
COMING TO PRAGUE, WHICH MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IF THE ETHOPIAN
WHICH HAS BEEN INVITED, SHOWS UP AS WELL. ANOTHER POTENTIAL
COMPLICATION
IS THAT THE EGYPTIAN TUC WILL BE SENDING THREE OFFICIALS
(FRIENDS OF AVERYANOV'S); HE IS WORRIED HOW OTHER ARAB
DELEGATIONS WILL REACT TO THEIR PRESENCE NOW THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE
BEEN THROWN OUT OF PAN-ARAB LABOR CONFEDERATION(ICATU). OF THE
SCANDINAVIANS, THE FINNISH SAK IS
COMING BUT THE NORWEGIANS AND SWEDES ARE NOT. THE
BRITISH TUC IS NOT COMING BUT THE SCOTTS AND IRISH ARE.
AVERYANOV SAYS WFTU HAD BOOKED THREE PRAGUE HOTELS BUT
HAS NOW UPPED THE NUMBER TO FIVE.

3. AGENDA. IN ADDITION TO ACCREDIATION COMMITTEE AND SEPARATE
COMMITTEES ON INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS, CONGRESS WILL
HAVE TWO COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE TWO MAIN DRAFTS
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY. THE FIRST OF THESE, A DRAFT UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS, WAS ADOPTED WITH LITTLE
DIFFICULTY AT WFTU BUREAU MEETING IN BUDAPEST LAST
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OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO AVERYANOV, WHO EXPECTS THAT IT WILL BE
APPROVED AT THE CONGRESS ALSO WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. THE SECOND
DRAFT, OF A DOCUMENT ON POLICY AND ACTION, PROMISES TO BE THE
SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY. IT WAS NOT AGREED UPON IN BUDAPEST,
BUT WAS PUT TOGETHER IN PRAGUE BY A DRAFTING COMMISSION.
AS AVERYANOV PUT IT, "IT IS MUCH MORE SENSIBLE TO START WITH
A DRAFT, EVEN IF NOT EVERYONE AGREES TO IT AT FIRST."
ONE BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE WFTU SECRETARIAT
WILL APPARENTLY BE ARTICLE 22 OF THE PREAMBLE, WHICH STATES,
"THE CREATION OF THE ETUC HAS REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF THE WORKERS OF
WESTERN EUROPE TO STRENGTHEN TRADE UNION UNITY. DESPITE
CERTAIN LIMITATIONS, IT IS PART OF A PROCESS OF UNITY,
WHICH IS DEVELOPING TOWARDS THE GROUPING TOGETHER OF TRADE
UNIONS IN THIS REGION."

4. RESOLUTIONS: RESOLUTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED AND
APPROVED ON EVERY SUBJECT FROM APARTHEID (SOUTH AFRICA
WILL BE REPRESENTED BY AN EXILE GROUP) TO CYPRUS, THE
NEUTRON BOMB AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
THERE WILL BE A PARTICULAR STRESS ON A RESOLUTION ON "PEACE
AND DISARMAMENT," WHICH IS IN PREPARATION ALREADY.

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5. POSSIBILITY OF EMBASSY OBSERVER. AVERYANOV REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE "OPEN" NATURE OF THE CONGRESS, AND SAID HE HAD "NO OBJECTION" TO A U.S. EMBASSY "OBSERVER" ATTENDING IT--PROBABLY IN THE GUISE OF AN "ASSISTANT PRESS ATTACHE" OR SOME SUCH--IN ORDER TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF THROWING THE DOORS OPEN TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO PRAGUE, HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DOUBLE-CHECK WITH PIERRE GENSOUS, WHO IS IN FRANCE CONFERRING WITH CGT UNTIL APRIL 3. HE THUS HELD OUT SOME HOPE THAT EMBOFF MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. "DECONTROLLED AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE. BYRNE UNQUOTE VANCE

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